

HOUSE RESOLUTION 315

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Jim Duncan, Director of Schools, for meritorious service to Wilson County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators and administrators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jim Duncan is one such estimable administrator who is beginning his 43rd year in education and his sixth year as Director of Schools for Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure in education, Dr. Duncan has not only served the Wilson County School System with the utmost acumen and alacrity as its Director, but he also served as principal of Oak Ridge High School from 1994 to 2000, and as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent of Schools in Bradford County, Florida, prior to his service in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Jim Duncan received his bachelor's, master's, and Educational Specialist degrees from the University of Florida and his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of North Florida; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Duncan has brought a new level of professionalism and sense of pride to Wilson County Schools; his leadership, high visibility, and availability have unified and strengthened the dedication of administrators, staff, and the community; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director of Schools for Wilson County, Dr. Duncan has initiated dual enrollment programs for high school students, the High Schools That Work and Middle Schools That Work programs, and a school calendar change to improve opportunities for student learning; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the student dropout rate has decreased to four percent from eighteen percent, and the number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses has increased by 400 percent; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Duncan has promoted and assisted with the implementation of the Tennessee Scholars Program in the Wilson County Schools, and he guided the implementation of a ninety-minute uninterrupted block for reading in elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, to address student growth in Wilson County, Dr. Duncan developed a comprehensive school capital project plan, resulting in a \$67.5 million bond issue with no property tax increase, and he supported technology grant proposals which resulted in the Wilson County Schools receiving funding in excess of \$650,000; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Duncan is a valuable member of numerous professional, civic, and community service organizations, including his participation as Chairman for the North Central Tennessee Prep Council for four years; as a member of the State Pre-K Advisory Committee and the Governor's Roundtable for Pre-K; as a member of the Tennessee High School Redesign Committee; as a participant in College Board activities; as a delegate to regional and national meetings; as a presenter at the Southern Regional meeting, as well as various State conferences; as a member of the American Association of School Superintendents and the Tennessee Superintendent's Association; as Chairman of the Heart Walk for Wilson County in 2004; as a member of the University Medical Center Board of Trustees, the Lebanon Noon Rotary Club, Immanuel Baptist Church and choir, and the Mid-South Southern Gospel Music association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Duncan was selected in 2003 to be the Upper Cumberland Superintendent of the Year, representing 23 counties in the middle and upper Cumberland area; and

WHEREAS, Jim Duncan is an extremely talented and compassionate administrator and educator who has worked assiduously to motivate his administrators, faculty, and students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jim Duncan serves as an inspiration to his colleagues, faculty, staff, and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Jim Duncan is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Sandra; two children, Scott and Kelley Kite; four grandsons; and one granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jim Duncan truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated administrator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized for his manifold achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Dr. Jim Duncan, Director of Wilson County Schools, commend his exceptional service to Wilson County and to the great State of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.